#### **NEWS RELEASE**



### Office of the City Manager

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# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE SPRINGFIELD, OH (Nov. 19, 2020)

### City Buildings to Close Due to COVID Surge

Springfield City buildings will close to the public beginning Monday, Nov. 23 through the remainder of the year due to a local surge in COVID-19 cases, City officials announced.

Closures include the first floor of City Hall, the location of Utility Billing and Income Tax divisions, and the lobby of Springfield Fire Rescue Division Station #1. The Building Regulations Department has discontinued in-person appointments inside City Hall as well. Those offices had been open to the public on a limited basis after a mayoral proclamation that closed them was lifted earlier this year.

"We understand that this might pose an inconvenience to the public, but what is more important is the public's safety," said Springfield City Manager Bryan Heck. "It's critical that we keep public health a priority while still delivering vital services to the community."

Utility billing payments may be submitted by mail or at one of the City's drop boxes, one outside City Hall on Fountain Avenue, and another outside the City Service Department on Lagonda Avenue.

The next meeting of the Springfield City Commission on Tuesday, Nov. 24 will take place in the City Hall Forum with limited in-person attendance. A maximum of 35 people - including city staff - are permitted in the Forum at any given time. Attendees will be asked to submit to temperature checks, wear masks and maintain social distancing.

The status of subsequent City Commission meetings - whether in-person or virtual - will be determined pending further discussion among local officials.